

introduction to patients. The appreciation and interpretation of these findings can only come with experience but the medical student beginning his clinical course must learn as much about their acquisition as the final year student, since these are the building blocks of much of his education. It follows then that an introductory text to clinical skills must at least be complete and not merely serve as a stepping stone to another more detailed text. In this respect "An Introduction to Clinical Medicine" is inadequate. The early chapters on history taking, general observations and examination of the integument are good, that on history taking being particularly useful. However, the chapters relating to examination of the major systems are not comprehensive enough and contain some misleading statements, e.g. that "a pulsating liver may be found in congestive cardiac failure" without making it clear that such a finding indicates tricuspid incompetence and is not found in uncomplicated heart failure. There is not enough information presented to allow the student to understand findings such as murmurs, the abnormalities of the jugular venous pressure, and hemiplegia to mention but a few.

A number of excellent introductory books including "Clinical Examination", McLeod, and "A Primer of Clinical Medicine", Papworth, are already available and the present text cannot be recommended as a substitute for them.

J.J.C.

PRINCIPLES OF PATHOBIOLOGY. Edited by Mariano F. La Via and Rolla B. Hill Jr. (Pp. xviii + 281, Illustrated £3.25) London: Oxford University Press. 1972.

THE term "pathobiology" has replaced "general pathology" for the study of the fundamental disturbances constituting disease in all living things. The foreword claims to present a concept of disease as an abnormal biological process which differs quantitatively, rather than qualitatively, from normal biological mechanisms. This permits a part of pathology to be taught to medical students as part of their training in biology, and it is useful to expose students of biology or zoology to the principles governing the variants of biological activity known as disease. In some American schools such a "core" curriculum with very little special human pathology has been adopted to allow time for electives and integrated or interdisciplinary clinical studies.

This book by seven American and one Finnish author is an interesting and up-to-date presentation. It includes much of the ultra-structure of the cell and some account of inflammation, of host-parasite interaction and of immunity. Opinions may be divided on some aspects of the presentation of neoplasia and the chapter on hereditary differentiation and development is disjointed and, like much of the book presents information which is interesting in itself, but not always well integrated and is sometimes of doubtful relevance in the context. Admittedly at present no one can be certain what is, or may be, relevant, but much data can obscure ideas.

The student well trained in biology will find this book interesting. Others may find parts of it no more inspiring than generations of students found cloudy swelling and fatty infiltration, and in the years to come parts of it will be no more relevant. The interest and excitement of studying the response of the whole organism to disease is missing and an introduction more related to the response of the patient may better stimulate and interest the average medical student.

J.E.M.

THE EYE IN GENERAL PRACTICE by C. R. S. Jackson, M.A., D.M.(Oxon.), D.O.M.S. F.R.C.S. Sixth Edition. (Pp. ix + 174; figs 48, £2.00). Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone, 1972.

THIS short and lucid statement of the facts of ophthalmology has again proved its acceptability to those for whom it is designed, by reaching its sixth edition since it was originally published in 1957. As an introduction to the subject or for a quick reference to a point of interest it can be strongly recommended. Of a convenient size, well printed and illustrated, as appropri-